SECT15 1994-C

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1. CASE NUMBER 940329CNE5104	2. INVESTIGATOR'S ID 8 2 5 1	3. OFFICE CODE 8 0 0	EPIDEMIOLOGIC
4. INCIDENT DATE YR MO	DAY 5. DATE IDI INITIATED	YR MO DAY	INVESTIGATION
9 4 0 3	1 4	9 4 0 4 0 6	REPORT
6. SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT OR CO	COMPLAINT		
A 23 year old female was treat year old son playing with mate volt battery contained in the un	ches. The smoke detector insi	de the apartment fa	re in her apartment started by her 4 tiled to operate due to a discharged 9
			No Comments made
7. LOCATION Home 1	8. CITY 1 0 Ft. Lauderdale		S. STATE Excisions/Revisions Firm has not requested F L
10A. FIRST PRODUCT	11A. TRADE/BH	RAND NAME, MODEL	Firm has not requested F L. NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS
Smoke Alarm	First Alert #S. 0 7 0 2 BRK Electron Aurora, Illino	ics .	
10B. SECOND PRODUCT	173 11B. TRADE/BR	RAND NAME, MODEL	NUMBER, MANUFACTURER & ADDRESS
Matches		own.	
12. AGE OF VICTIM 13. SEX 0 2 3	2	14. DISPOSITION Treated & Release	15. INJURY DIAGNOSIS Anoxia 65
16. BODY PART 8 5	17. RESPONDENT(S) Victim's Neighbor	3 18. INVE	STIGATION TYPE 19. TIME SPENT 1 7. 0
20. ATTACHMENTS Fire Report	21. CASE SOURCE 2 Newspaper	ž –	YR MO DAY 1 6 5 9 4 0 5 3 1
23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE N			Om DY00Y 0.07 2.004
24. NARRATIVE (See Instructions	CLOSE MY NAME		OT DISCLOSE MY NAME
	• c e.g. e.g.	25. NEG/	ONAL DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE
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PRE-INCIDENT

Information contained in this report was obtained from the following sources:

- 1. Ft. Lauderdale Fire Department (Fire Prevention Bureau).
- 2. Property Owner (Vice President of Corporation).
- 3. Victim's Neighbor.
- 4. American Red Cross, Associate Director:
- 5. Home Depot (Retail Outlet), Boca Raton, FL.

The victim has since moved with no forwarding address.

Prior to the incident, which occurred on March 14, 1994 a mother was home in her apartment, located in Ft. Lauderdale with two of her 3 sons, one a 4 year old male. The third child a 6 year old male, was at school. The apartment, the three room unit, was located in a multi-unit one story dwelling constructed of frame. Reportedly battery operated, ceiling located smoke detectors were situated inside all of the units (based upon information provided by building owner).

Weather did not appear to be a factor in this incident.

INCIDENT

Based on information provided by fire department investigating officer, at approximately 1129 hours, a 4 year old male was playing with matches, and accidentally ignited a bed inside the bedroom of the apartment.

POST-INCIDENT

The child's mother (victim), who was pregnant, rushed out of the house with her two sons, then attempted to extinguish the flames with a garden hose, while neighbors notified the fire department. The smoke detector contained inside the livingroom of the apartment failed to activate.

Upon their arrival at 1133 hours, the fire department reported heavy smoke and flames emitting from the structure. Entry was made through the front door, and they encountered even flames in the rear bedroom, and subsequently extinguished the fire.

A fire investigator, entered the apartment, and conducted a follow-up investigation, made the determination that the fire was started by the 4 year old, who was playing with matches. Inspection of the smoke alarm, revealed that a "dead" 9 volt battery, was contained inside the unit.

The 23 year old female, was taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, and after treatment was released.

In order to obtain ID information concerning the smoke detector contained in the apartment, I visited New Phase Realty Corporation, who is affiliated with the listed owner Mandonia Mortgage Corporation, 412 Northeast 3rd Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, (305) 523-4050. I conversed with Mr. Steven D. Reiberman, who identified himself as the Vice President. I visited Mr. Rieberman's office on 3 occasions between 4/21/94 and 5/12/94, in an attempt to obtain the ID information contained on the smoke detector. On each occasion, Mr. Rieberman informed me that he has not had a chance as of yet to have a maintenance worker check the unit involved. I attempted to contact the former resident (victim) of the apartment by contacting/visiting the local American Red Cross Chapter, 521 Northeast 4th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and conversing with Mr. Mark Goggon, the Associate Director. Mr. Goggon informed me that the information I requested to locate the former resident, was confidential and could not be supplied without court order. An unsuccessful attempt was also made at the local post office, to locate the victim's forwarding address.

Based on information provided by Steven D. Rieberman, New Phase Realty Corporation, that he purchased an entire case of the same type of smoke alarm units for all the apartments at the complex in 1992, at a Home Depot Outlet, I visited the complex located at 524 Northeast 4th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and asked a neighbor of the former resident Mr. Eddie Rivera (apartment #1), if he could provide me with any information concerning ID of the smoke detector contained in his apartment. Mr. Rivera invited me into his apartment to examine the battery operated smoke alarm, situated on the livingroom ceiling. Upon examination, I pushed the test button, and the unit failed to operate. I flipped the cover and observed that there was no 9 volt battery contained inside the unit (inoperable). Due to poor lighting, and dirt contained on the unit, most of the information was illegible other than the following: "First Alert #7095 C58 100 002" (contained on inside of unit).

Following obtaining the above information, on May 12, 1994, I visited a Home Depot Retail Outlet, located on Glades Road and State Road 7, Boca Raton, FL. I was able to match-up the unit examined at the neighbor's apartment, with a unit contained at the Home Depot Outlet.

The box containing the smoke alarm contained the following information: Brand Name: First Alert, Manufacturer: BRK Electronics, Aurora, IL, Model: SA67D, Price: \$6.97. Following my retail visit, I contacted Investigator Steve Paine, at the Ft. Lauderdale Fire Prevention Bureau, in order to make him aware of the possible situation concerning inoperable smoke detectors at the apartment complex. Inspector Paine indicated that he would immediately send someone out to the complex to examine the situation.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Based on information obtained at the neighbor's apartment in the complex, the brand name of the smoke alarm was "First Alert", manufactured by BRK Electronics, Aurora, IL. The model (based on information obtained at Home Depot) appeared to be #SA67D. The unit was approved by Underwriters Laboratories, through a seal appearing on the carton. The unit's power source is a 9 volt battery. The unit is constructed of white plastic and is cylindrical in shape. Information contained on the unit examined at the neighbor's apartment was as follows: #7095 C58 100 002.

STANDARDS

This investigation was conducted under the CPSA.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - Fire Report, Ft. Lauderdale Fire Department.

FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Enviés contained in this report are intended for the sole use of the Fire Dept. Estimations and evaluations made herein represent "most likely" and "most probable" cause and effect. Any representation as to the validity or accuracy of reported conditions outside the Fire Dept. is neither intended or implied.

FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FIELD INCIDENT REPORT



SECONDARY

FDID 10192

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11CIDENT # EXP MONTH DAY YI	R DAY OF WEEK COMPANY ST	TATION # MILEAGE CODE MAN MINUTES
# OF ALARMS DISTRICT ZONE SHIFT THE		10-97 10-10 10-98
CORRECT ADDRESS		OUT OF CITY ROOM OR APT #
5.24 NE	4 Ave	Yes No
PROCEDURES EMPLOYED	EXTINGUISHING AGENTS USED	EQUIPMENT USED
HOLD IN FORCIBLE ENTRY SEARCH RESCUE EVACUATION SALVAGE STAND BY VENTILATION ARSON INVESTIGATION OVERHAUL EXTINGUISHMENT	Foam Ga	HAND LINE GENERATOR PORTABLE LIGHTS
REMOVE HAZARD INVESTIGATION	STANDPIPE SPRINKLER DRY CHEMICAL	WATER VACUUM EXPLOSIMETER ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT SELF-CONT. SPARE CYL. RESUSCITATOR O2 CYL.
APPLIANCES USED DELUGE GUN DECK TURRET SNORKEL GUN	CARBON DIOXIDE HALOGENATED	BODY BOARD AIR-FOAM BLOWER HURST TOOL HYDRAULIC JACK SMALL TOOLS (Axe-Pick)
TELE-SQUIRT LADDER PIPE	ON-SITE EXTINGUISHERS USED PRESSURIZED WATER SODA ACID	LIFE LINE SMOKE EJECTER PORTABLE PUMP SALVAGE COVERS
HOSE LINES USED	FOAM	PROBEYE PORTA POWER
No. Total Feet Booster Line 1½" Pre-Conn 1½" Wyed Lines 2½" Hand Lines	DRY CHEMICAL CARBON DIOXIDE HALOGENATED	HI-RISE KIT
2½" Master Stream 3" Master Stream 2½" Supply 3" Supply 1½" Pre-Conn S.P.	AERIAL GROUND UP TO 30' GROUND OVER 30' SQUIRT	PARE DATE SECTION COMMUNICION

BC115

OPERATIONS AND COMPANY AND STORY OF FIRE

Give a complete account of the work of the company. The sequence of operations and where the company worked (floor of building, for example) should be clearly recorded. To the best of your recollection show where each man worked and what he did. Describe where fire apparently started and from what cause; what material burned; progress of fire upon arrival of company; and, any dangerous condition of the building. List all company personnel responding. List all injury and/or fatality information.

Condition of doors or windows (locked or open, for example); any unusual presence of flammable or combustibles; or, obstaçles placed to hamper the fire department deliberately should be noted. This information should so far as possible be coupled with the name of the man who encountered the condition so that he can be witness to it if necessary in connection with further investigation of the fire.

Also, utilizing Form 901-J, make a sketch to show the relative positions of pumper, hydrant, ladder or other apparatus with respect to the building afire. Show hose lines manned by this company and their approximate lengths.

MUST BE TYPED	M	UST	BE	TYPE	Œ
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District Commander Responding:

Act. B/C McCormick

Personnel:

Lt.O'Brien, D/E Diaz, FF Comer

Operations:

Reviewed By:

Engine 13 responded to a working fire, RIC, at 524 N.E. 4 Ave. Upon arrival stagged at the hydrant until ordered by B/C 102 to return to quarters. Engine 13 returned to station 13.

940329 CNESIOY EXHIBIT DATE

DATE

DEVESTIGATION

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	tto Sm ht	F.J.O'Brien Lt.	•
Prepared By:	· Hoom M	(Rank)	
		•	

OPERATIONS AND COMPANY AND STORY OF FIRE

Give a complete account of the work of the company. The sequence of operations and where the company worked (floor of building, for example) should be clearly recorded. To the best of your recollection show where each man worked and what he did. Describe where fire apparently started and from what cause; what material burned; progress of fire upon arrival of company; and, any dangerous condition of the building. List all company personnel responding. List all injury and/or fatality information.

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MUST BE TYPED

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District Commander Responding:		
Personnel:		
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		940329 <nesiof)<="" exhidit="" th=""></nesiof>
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Prepared By:		(Rank)
Reviewed Bv:		(Rank)

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Sun-Sentinel, Tuesday, March 15, 1994

N43-0414A/



Photo/ANDREW ITKOFF

Rescue workers help Rose Cotto, 23, who was later treated for smoke inhalation from a home fire.

Child with matches sparks fire

Blaze guts home; would-be rescuers search for child presumed missing

By WARREN RICHEY Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — A 4-year-old playing with matches touched off a blaze on Monday that gutted a two-bedroom house and had two would-be rescuers searching the burning home for what they thought was a missing child, firefighters said

The missing child, a 6-year-old boy, was safe — in school — but his mother was treated at Broward General Medical Center for smoke inhalation, firefighters said.

Rose Cotto, 23, was home with two of her three young sons when the fire started on a bed at 11:29 a.m. Battalion Fire Chief Steve McInerny said the 4-year-old boy was playing with matches.

Cotto, who is pregnant, rushed out of the house with her two sons, then tried to battle the flames with a garden hose, witnesses said. Neighbors thought a child might still be in the home in the 500 block of Northeast Fourth Avenue.

"We heard the TV on. We still thought there were kids in there," said Ken Stimpson, who was doing repair work on a house nearby when the fire broke out.

A neighbor, Ed Jimmie, saw the smoke and heard someone say a child was missing. Witnesses said he vaulted a fence and rushed into the smoke-filled building.

"I couldn't see nothing," Jimmie said. "I just kept yelling. I was trying to get some kind of response."

Jimmie made his way to a hallway but was forced out by the intense smoke and heat.

By the time Jimmie retreated to the front yard, the Fire Department had arrived. A firefighter, who was equipped with a breathing apparatus, entered the house to continue the search. He found no one. When firefighters arrived, flames were roaring out a back window, said Lt. Renard Jacobs. The yellow concrete-block house was filled with thick smoke.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within 15 minutes, McInerny said, but it still caused an estimated \$35,000 in damage. Firefighters said a smoke detector had not been working.

Red Cross staff, with headquarters across the street from Cotto's house, offered assistance to the children while their mother was at the hospital.

Tom Rodgers, a Red Cross disaster specialist, said his organization helped find food and clothing for the Cottos and by late afternoon had moved the family to a motel.

Also Monday afternoon, firefighters enrolled the 4-year-old boy in the firestarter's fire safety course, McInerny said.

FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Entrie: contained in this report are intended for the sole use of the Fire Dept. Estimations and evaluations made herein represent "most likely" and "most probable" cause and effect. Any representation as to the validity or accuracy of reported conditions outside the Fire Dept. is neither intended or implied.

FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FIELD INCIDENT REPORT



FDID 10192

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5		11 12 Structure fire		31 🛘 Inhalato	of		4	7 🛘 Chem	ical emergency		61 🗆 Sniol		able
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		14 🔲 Trees, brush 15 🗍 Refuse fire		34 Search 35 Extricati	ion		5		e Call, insufficient		64 🗌 Vicin	ity alarm	
ALL		16 [] Explosion, no after-fire		37 D Water R	escue			1 D Lock	out		69 D Good	n, other gas n Intent Call no	nistaken for smoke ot classified
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